GOOD NEWS FOR HOMEMAKERS

By Shirley W. Walton
Extension Agent

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CHOOSE TOYS WISELY

Shopping for toys to make dreams come true on Christmas morning can be a pleasure. Yet, it may be confusing. For this reason, and safety's sake, care and thought should go into each purchase.

Our Extension Office wishes to remind consumers that safety, washability and durability are important. Toys that can be treated to a sudsy bath or wiped clean with a suds-dampened sponge hold up better to a long fun-filled play life, especially for floor-bound activities.

It helps when manufacturers indicate the age range for which a toy is intended. Many quality toys are so labeled, based on research into children's physical development and interests at different ages. The skills and abilities of the individual are also considerations.

This season there is a new interest in magic. Young and old can have hours of fun amazing family and friends with mysterious tricks, available in a wide assortment.

Well-loved cartoon characters, headed by Mickey and Minnie Mouse are popular. Nostalgia has revived interest in club hats, dolls and games. Decorative and functional items include a "Micky Math" electronic calculator which performs the basic four arithmetic functions, wall plaque and figurines, wristwatches and radios.

Many toys are suitable for a six to nine month old baby. Educational playthings are on hand from the crawling state well into tothood. Sound, sight, touch and motor-muscle control are developed. Choose from a variety of washable, colorful stacking rings and blocks; balls that roll and squeak or a see-through type with fluttering butterflies inside; soft, cuddly animals and dolls; sturdy cars and trucks; simple push-pull toys; shape and/or color matching toys and bath toys. Select durable varieties. Avoid those that contain small parts, which can be easily removed. Also, poorly made stuffed dolls, animals, rattles and other items that can break open.

Doll and car-oriented play is enjoyed by older toddlers into primary grades. There is a greater selection of teaching toys for this age group - - word and number cards, puzzles, self-help, ask and answer devices as well as geography and history games - - to make learning a pleasant experience.

Young children delight in make-believe play created from the grown-up world around them. Mini-sized metal or plastic cookware, tea sets, small appliances and utensils, kitchen sink and range models scaled down to size - - offer a great opportunity to teach children about cooking, serving and cleanup. But the first lesson to be taught is how to use them correctly and safely.

There are many toys to ride, to take apart and put together again. Trucks and construction equipment, cars, campers, trains, fire engines, snowmobiles, airplanes and boats are available in a wide variety of sizes and complexity. Some come with removable "people." Others can be manipulated for digging, lifting and dumping.

"Layout toys," include dollhouses, garages, motels, castles, a riding stable and a fast food service. Used with mini- cars, trucks and furnishings, they create examples of city and country life. More complicated setups for older children are based on popular television series such as Star Trek and Planet of the Apes.

Chalk boards, coloring books, crayons and paints are perennial favorites. And, a vast array of art and craft materials are geared for the very young to young adults. A sturdy child-size table and chair set is a good investment for several years of playing house or school, and working on art projects.

Keeping toys safe and in good condition becomes a family responsibility. Teach children to put toys away after play so they do not get broken or lost and so that no one else trips or falls on them. By providing young children with easy-to-reach storage bins and shelves and helping them put things away properly, a good safety habit is instilled.

Keeping toys clean and in good repair is a matter of sorting the contents of toy boxes and shelves often enough to catch those with loose small parts, sharp points or rough edges, open seams and the like, frayed cords and loose wires. Put aside those that can be fixed. Discard the unrepairable. Then wash and replace the rest.

Proper supervision of youngsters is important in preventing toy-related injuries. Be especially conscious where children of different age levels and toys for different age levels are in the same area. And be particularly attentive when young visitors are on the scene.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Lemon-Pecan Fruitcake

1 (1-pound) box brown sugar
1 pound margarine
6 egg yolks, beaten
4 cups all-purpose flour, divided
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 (2 ounce) bottle lemon extract
4 cups chopped pecans
½ pound candied pineapple, chopped
½ pound candied cherries, chopped
6 egg whites, beaten

Cream together brown sugar and margarine until smooth; add beaten egg yolks and mix well. Combine 2 cups flour and baking powder; add to creamed mixture. Fold in beaten egg whites. Cover and let stand overnight.

The next day, put mixture into a greased tube pan which has been lined with greased paper. Bake at 250° for 2½ hours or until cake tests done. Yield: about 8 pounds.

The trouble with telling a good story is that it always reminds the other guy of a dull one.

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Man does not live by words alone, even though now and then he has to eat them.

Rocks

DEC. 1 - The hunting season is in full swing. There is a constant call for snow.

Wilson Almond returned home from the hospital on Tuesday.

A number attended the Williams' funeral on Wednesday.

Sympathy is extended the family.

A number had their children for Thanksgiving.

Rev. and Mrs. Don Wagner and Gary left on Thursday to spend Thanksgiving with their son, Dennis and family of South Carolina.

A number were out for the covered dish supper on Wednesday night and the Thanksgiving service.

Ken Caldwell was sick Sunday.

Cassie Baldwin and Christine Nash of Pamplin attended the Golden Wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Garrison of Madisonville that was held near Cullen Sunday afternoon.

All Brotherhood and W.M.S. members are urged to attend the Week of Prayer Program at church on Monday night at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1 p.m. Special Sunday on December 7. The church directories will be given out. Also, copies of the constitution and by-laws. Please make an effort to be present on this Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Richardson and Sabrina accompanied Charlie Seamster to Fisherville on Sunday to get the latter's wife who will come home for awhile.

Jennifer Roach celebrated her third birthday Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Ranson were overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Wilcox of Roanoke Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Williams of Waynesboro were visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Roach Sunday.

Mrs. Clara Garrett and Mrs. Alice Jackson of Evergreen, Mrs. Laura Richardson, of Appomattox, and Mr. and Mrs. Spud Almond, of Pamplin, were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Toby Inge Thanksgiving Day.

The Rocks Quartet went to South Boston to furnish a musical program Sunday night.

BETHANY PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH TO HOLD HOLD REVIVAL

The Bethany Pentecostal Holiness Church in Spout Spring will hold a revival beginning December 3 and ending December 7.

Present to conduct the revival will be the Rev. Woodrow Smith from Raleigh, N.C.

On December 5, 6 and 7 the New Deliverance Gospel Singers (shown above) will be present to minister in song.

Bethany Pentecostal Holiness Church extends a warm invitation to one and all to come and enjoy a refreshing revival of faith in this joyous season.

The Rev. Robert Bruce is pastor of the church.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN TO SPONSOR CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Women of the Church, Appomattox Court House Presbyterian Church, will sponsor a Christmas Bazaar at the church on December 5 and 6.

On Friday, December 5th, the Bazaar will be open to the public from 3 P.M. ... and on Saturday, ... the Bazaar will be ... a.m. until 1 p.m.

The public is ... support this project ... by the Women of ... There will be ... decorations and gi... sale.

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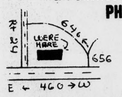

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